LAWRENCE C. HERSH

Attorney at Law 17 Sylvan Street, Suite 102B Rutherford, NJ 07070 (201) 507-6300 Attorney for Plaintiff and all others similarly situated

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

GLADYS ESPINAL, on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

Vs.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND
JURY TRIAL DEMAND

FIRST NATIONAL COLLECTION BUREAU,
INC., and LVNV FUNDING LLC,

Defendants.

Plaintiff GLADYS ESPINAL, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), by and through her undersigned attorney, alleges against the above-named Defendants FIRST NATIONAL COLLECTION BUREAU, INC. and LVNV FUNDING LLC (collectively" Defendants"), their employees, agents, and successors, the following:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Plaintiff brings this action for actual and statutory damages and

declaratory and injunctive relief arising from the Defendant's violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.*, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (hereinafter "FDCPA"), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331. This is an action for violations of 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq*.
- 3. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because jurisdiction is not founded solely on diversity of citizenship and Plaintiff resides in this jurisdiction.

DEFINITIONS

4. As used in reference to the FDCPA, the terms "creditor," "consumer," "debt," and "debt collector" are defined in § 803 of the FDCPA and 15 U.S.C. § 1692a.

JURY DEMAND

5. Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all issues.

PARTIES

- 6. The FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.*, which prohibits certain debt collection practices provides for the initiation of court proceedings to enjoin violations of the FDCPA and to secure such equitable relief as may be appropriate in each case.
- 7. Plaintiff is a natural person and resident of the State of New Jersey, County of Bergen, and is a "Consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

- 8. Based upon information and belief defendant FIRST NATIONAL COLLECTION BUREAU, INC. ("First National") is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Nevada with its principle place of business located in Sparks, Nevada.
- 9. Based upon information and belief, Defendant LVNV FUNDING LLC, ("LVNV) is a Delaware limited liability company engaged in the business of collecting debts in this with its principal place of business located in Greenville, South Carolina.
- 10. Upon information and belief, Defendants are companies that use the mail, telephone, and facsimile and regularly engage in business, the principal purpose of which is to attempt to collect debts alleged to be due another. Defendants are each a "Debt Collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692(a)(6).

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 11. Plaintiff brings this action as a state wide class action, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (hereinafter "FRCP"), on behalf of herself and all New Jersey consumers and their successors in interest (the "Class"), who have received debt collection letters and/or notices from the Defendants which are in violation of the FDCPA, as described in this Complaint.
 - 12. This Action is properly maintained as a class action. The Class consists of:
 - All New Jersey consumers who were sent collection letters and/or notices from Defendants concerning a debt originally owed to Credit One Bank, N.A. (the "Original Creditor") and which contained at least on one of the alleged violations of 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. as set forth herein.

- The Class period begins one year prior to the filing of this Action.
- 13. The Class satisfies all the requirements of Rule 23 of the FRCP for maintaining a class action:
 - Upon information and belief, the Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable because there are hundreds and/or thousands of persons who have received debt collection letters and/or notices from the Defendants that violate specific provisions of the FDCPA. Plaintiff is complaining of a standard form letter and/or notice that is sent to hundreds of persons (*See* Exhibit A, except that the undersigned attorney has, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2 partially redacted the financial account numbers in an effort to protect Plaintiff's privacy);
 - There are questions of law and fact which are common to the Class and which predominate over questions affecting any individual Class member. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:
 - a. Whether Defendants violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including, but not limited to: 15 U.S.C. §§1692e, 1692e(2)(A), 1692e(2)(B), 1692e(5), 1692e(10), 1692f and 1692(f)(1);
 - b. Whether Defendants misrepresented the amount of the alleged debt, including the attempt to collect interest which they were not entitled to;

- c. Whether the Defendants demanded an amount owed that was greater than the actual balance due;
- d. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have been injured by the
 Defendants' conduct;
- e. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages and are entitled to restitution as a result of Defendants' wrongdoing, and if so, what is the proper measure and appropriate statutory formula to be applied in determining such damages and restitution; and
- f. Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to declaratory and/or injunctive relief.
- Plaintiff's claims are typical of the Class, which all arise from the same operative facts and are based on the same legal theories;
- Plaintiff has no interest adverse or antagonistic to the interest of the other members of the Class;
- Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interest of the Class and have retained experienced and competent attorneys to represent the Class;
- A Class Action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient
 adjudication of the claims herein asserted. Plaintiff anticipates that no
 unusual difficulties are likely to be encountered in the management of
 this class action;

- A Class Action will permit large numbers of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously and without the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment will also permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by many Class members who could not otherwise afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein. Absent a Class Action, class members will continue to suffer losses of statutory protected rights as well as monetary damages. If the Defendants conduct is allowed to proceed without remedy it will continue to reap and retain the proceeds of its ill-gotten gains;
- Defendants have acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire
 Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or
 corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 14. Plaintiff is at all times relevant to this lawsuit, a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).
- 15. Prior to April 2010, Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation to Credit One Bank, N.A. ("Credit One").
- 16. The Credit One obligation arose out of a transaction in which money, property, insurance or services, which are the subject of the transaction, are primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

- 17. The alleged Credit One obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
 - 18. Credit One is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(4).
- 19. Credit One was engaged in the business of extending credit to individuals in amounts less than \$50,000 that were not secured by a first mortgage. Based upon information and belief it did so more than 26 times per year in New Jersey.
- 20. At some time prior to April 2010, the Credit One obligation became past due.
- 21. At some time during April 2010, the Credit One obligation was charged-off.
- 22. Subsequently, upon information and belief, the Credit One obligation was sold one or more times, and was ultimately acquired by Defendant LVNV.
- 23. When LVNV purchased the subject account, the debt was already delinquent and in default.
- 24. Defendant LVNV then referred the Credit One obligation for collection to defendant First National.
- 25. On or April 15, 2016, Defendants sent Plaintiff a collection letter with a balance due of \$1,094.15. See, attached Exhibit A.
- 26. The April 15, 2016 letter did not itemize or breakdown the amount of the debt by principal, interest, fees and/or other charges.
- 27. The outstanding balance claimed to be due by Defendants on the Credit One obligation in the April 15, 2016 collection letter included interest and/or other charges.

- 28. The April 15, 2016 collection letter did not inform Plaintiff that the amount of the debt included interest and/or other charges.
- 29. At the time Defendants sent out the April 15, 2016 collection letter, neither Defendant was properly licensed under the New Jersey Licensed Lender Act, N.J.S.A. § 17:11C-1, *et seq.* or the New Jersey Consumer Finance Licensing Act, authorizing it to make consumer loans, or to buy, discount or endorse notes (loans) or to receive interest.
- 30. At all relevant times, neither defendant was licensed by the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance.
- 31. Since LVNV was not a licensed consumer lender in New Jersey, it was not allowed to collect interest or other charges from Plaintiff.
- 32. However, Defendants have attempted to collect interest. Late payments or other charges from Plaintiff
 - 33. Plaintiff did not owe Defendants interest, late payment or other charges.
- 34. The April 15, 2016 collection letter was sent to Plaintiff in connection with the collection of the Credit One obligation.
- 35. LVNV was not entitled to seek payment nor collect interest or other charges for any consumer loans, including Plaintiff's Credit One obligation, since it was not a New Jersey licensed consumer lender at the time the collection letter was sent. See, Veras v. LVNV Funding, LLC, 2014 WL 1050512, (D. N.J. Mar. 17, 2014).
- 36. Defendant First National, an agent of unlicensed LVNV, was not entitled to seek payment nor collect interest or other charges on behalf of Defendant LVNV for

the Credit One obligation.

- 37. Additionally, the April 15, 2016 collection letter sought to collect on a Credit One obligation which was time-barred and which defendants knew they could not sue on.
 - 38. The April 15, 2016 collection letter stated:

In many circumstances, you can renew the debt and start the time period for the filing of a lawsuit against you if you take specific actions such as making certain payment on the debt or making a written promise to pay.

- 39. Defendants' statement in the April 15, 2016 collection letter regarding the restarting of the statute of limitations is false and misleading.
- 40. The April 15, 2016 letter was a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(2).
- 41. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact by being subjected to unfair and abusive practices of Defendants.
- 42. Plaintiff suffered actual harm by being the target of Defendants' misleading debt collection communications.
- 43. Defendants violated Plaintiff's rights not to be the target of misleading debt collection communications.
- 44. Defendants violated Plaintiff's right to a trustful and fair debt collection process.
- 45. Under the FDCPA, Plaintiff had the right to receive certain information from Defendants.
 - 46. Plaintiff had the right to receive from Defendants accurate information as

to amount of the debt.

- 47. Defendants' April 15, 2016 collection letter which unlawfully sought the collection of interest caused Plaintiff a concrete injury in that Plaintiff was deprived of her right to receive accurate and trustworthy information as to the actual amount of the alleged debt that she owed.
- 48. Defendants' communications were designed to cause Plaintiff to suffer a harmful disadvantage in charting a course of action in response to Defendant's collection efforts.
- 49. The FDCPA ensures that consumers are fully and truthfully apprised of the facts and of their rights, the act enables them to understand, make informed decisions about, and participate fully and meaningfully in the debt collection process. The purpose of the FDCPA is to provide information that helps consumers to choose intelligently. The Defendants' false representations misled the Plaintiff in a manner that deprived Plaintiff of his or her right to enjoy these benefits.
- 50. As a result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff suffered an actual, concrete injury as a result of defendants' failure to provide Plaintiff information required under the FDCPA.
- 51. Plaintiff's receipt of a collection letter which wrongly assessed interest and/or other charges is a concrete injury.
- 52. The failure of Defendants to provide this information impeded Plaintiff's ability to make a well-reasoned decision.
- 53. Defendants failure to provide accurate information injured Plaintiff in that it impacted her ability to decide on how to proceed with respect to the matter will she

hire an attorney, represent herself, payoff the debt, engage in a payment plan, file for bankruptcy, etc.

- 54. Defendants' providing of incorrect and inflated debt information may have a negative impact on Plaintiff's credit score, can impact her ability to get credit, and can subject her to higher borrowing cost in the future.
- 55. The deceptive communication additionally violated the FDCPA since it frustrated Plaintiff's ability to intelligently choose his or her response.
- 56. Based upon information and belief, within the last year, Defendants sent collection letters to numerous New Jersey consumers that included a demand for an amount that included a collection fee, interest or other fee that it was not entitled to.

COUNT I

FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692 <u>VIOLATIONS</u>

- 57. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 56 as if the same were set forth at length.
- 58. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. §1692 et seq. of the FDCPA in connection with its collection attempts against Plaintiff and others similarly situated.
- 59. By sending collection letters, the same as or substantially similar to the April 15, 2016 letter, which identified an amount owed that was greater than the actual balance due and which including false statements, violated several provisions of the FDCPA, including, but not limited:
 - A. 15 U.S.C. §1692e, by using a false, deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt;

- B. 15 U.S.C. §1692e(2)(A), by falsely representing the character, amount, or legal status of any debt;
- C. 15 U.S.C. §1692e(2)(B), by falsely representing any services rendered or compensation which may lawfully be received by a debt collector for the collection of a debt;
- D. 15 U.S.C. §1692e(2)(5) by threatening to take any action that cannot legally be taken or that is not intended to be taken.
- E. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) of the FDCPA by of the FDCPA by using false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect a debt from Plaintiff.
- F. 15 U.S.C. §1692f by using unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt; and
- G. 15 U.S.C. §1692f(1), by collecting or attempting to collect any amount not expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt or permitted by law.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and others similarly situated, demands judgment against Defendants as follows:

- (a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative and attorney Lawrence Hersh, Esq., as Class Counsel;
 - (b) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class maximum statutory damages;
 - (c) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages
 - (d) Awarding pre-judgment interest;
 - (e) Awarding post-judgment interest;

(f) Awarding reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses; and

(g) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as the Court may

deem just and proper.

Dated: Rutherford, New Jersey

April 15, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

By: s/ Lawrence C. Hersh

Lawrence C. Hersh, Esq. 17 Sylvan Street, Suite 102B Rutherford, NJ 07070

(201) 507-6300

Attorney for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 11.2

I, Lawrence C. Hersh, the undersigned attorney of record for Plaintiff, do hereby

certify to my own knowledge and based upon information available to me at my office,

the matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action now pending in any court

or in any arbitration or administrative proceeding.

Dated: April 15, 2017

By: s/ Lawrence C. Hersh

Lawrence C. Hersh, Esq

13

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dept. # 21377

Oaks. PA 19456

PO Box 1259

vaitnam way Sparks, NV 89434 Of 15 Page D. 15 (800) 824-6191

April 15, 2016 Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 6 A.M. - 6 P.M. Pacific Standard Time

*Please remit all correspondence

to the above address

Current Creditor: LVNV Funding LLC Original Creditor: Credit One Bank, N.A./

Account #: 1030 315 Ref #:

Original Account #: 6194

Total Due: \$1,094.15

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GLADYS ESPINAL

PAY YOUR ACCOUNT

20% IN 5 PAYMENTS

Our client LVNV Funding LLC is offering you a discounted offer of \$218.83 in 5 payments over 5 months starting on 05/13/16. (28 days)

Once payments totaling \$218.83 have been paid to our office on time, we will consider this account satisfied in full.

Payments may not be more than 30 days apart or this discounted offer may be cancelled. Please send in the payments along with the payment stub to the address listed on the coupon.

If you need additional time to respond to this offer, please contact us. We are not obligated to renew this offer.

The law limits how long you can be sued on a debt. Because of the age of your debt, LVNV Funding LLC will not sue you for it, and LVNV Funding LLC will not report it to any credit reporting agency.

In many circumstances, you can renew the debt and start the time period for the filing of a lawsuit against you if you take specific actions such as making certain payment on the debt or making a written promise to pay. You should determine the effect of any actions you take with respect to this debt.

If you wish to speak with a representative please call (800) 824-6191.

Sincerely.

First National Collection Bureau, Inc. (800) 824-6191

This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. This is a communication from a debt collector

For your convenience, if you would like to make your payment online, visit our website at www.fncbinc.com

1 OF 5 Ref #: BAYMENT TO: FNCB INC. PO BOX 51660 SPARKS, NV 89435

PAYMENT AMT - \$43.77 DUE DATE - 05/13/16

DETACH COUPONS AND MAIL PAYMENT

4 OF 5 Ref #: 315 MAIL PAYMENT TO: FNCB INC. PO BOX 51660 SPARKS, NV 89435 PAYMENT AMT - \$43.77 DUE DATE - 08/11/16 DETACH COUPONS AND MAIL PAYMENT Detach Coupons And Mail Payment 2 OF 5 Ref #: BEE B15 MAIL PAYMENT TO: **FNCB INC** PO BOX 51660 SPARKS, NV 89435 **PAYMENT AMT - \$43.77** DUE DATE - 06/12/16

DETACH COUPONS AND MAIL PAYMENT

5 OF 5 Ref #: BESSE B15 MAIL PAYMENT TO: FNCB INC. PO BOX 51660 SPARKS, NV 89435 PAYMENT AMT - \$43.75 DUE DATE - 09/10/16 DETACH COUPONS AND MAIL PAYMENT 3 OF 5 Ref #: BBBBB315 MAIL PAYMENT TO: **FNCB INC** PO BOX 51660 SPARKS, NV 89435 **PAYMENT AMT - \$43.77** DUE DATE - 07/12/16 DETACH COUPONS AND MAIL PAYMENT

$_{ m JS~44~(Rev.~07/16)}$ Case 2:17-cv-02833-WJM-MET Pacuro 11 SHECL 04/16/17 Page 1 of 2 PageID: 16

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

purpose of initiating the civil do					1971, is required for the use of	and clock of court for the	
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS			
GLADYS ESPINAL				FIRST NATIONAL COLLECTION BUREAU, INC. and LVNV FUNDING LLC			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Bergen				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant			
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, Email and Telephone Number) Lawrence Hersh, Esq. 17 Sylvan Street, Suite 102b Rutherford, NJ 07070 (201) 507-6300				Attorneys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place on "V" in C	Ina Pay Only)	III CI	 TIZENSHIP OF P	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place on "V" in One Poy for Plaintiff	
				III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff (For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant)			
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	★ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		Citize	Citizen of This State PTF DEF Citizen of This State 1 1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State			
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		Citize	Citizen of Another State			
				Citizen or Subject of a			
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		orts	FC	ORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
 □ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 	PERSONAL INJURY □ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 340 Marine □ 345 Marine Product	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	□ 69	5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 ☐ 423 Withdrawal	ithdrawal 8 USC 157 8 USC 157 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antirust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations	
 □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise 	Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL PROPER □ 370 Other Fraud □ 371 Truth in Lending □ 380 Other Personal Property Damage □ 385 Property Damage Product Liability	□ 72 □ 74 □ 75 □ 79	0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Management Relations 0 Railway Labor Act 1 Family and Medical Leave Act 0 Other Labor Litigation	☐ 861 HIA (1395ff) ☐ 862 Black Lung (923) ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI ☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	□ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange ▼ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information	
REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation	CIVIL RIGHTS ☐ 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITION Habeas Corpus:	NS □ 79	1 Employee Retirement Income Security Act	FEDERAL TAX SUITS ☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	Act ☐ 896 Arbitration	
 □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property 	□ 441 Voting □ 442 Employment □ 443 Housing/ Accommodations □ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment □ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other □ 448 Education	□ 463 Alien Detainee □ 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence □ 530 General □ 535 Death Penalty Other: □ 540 Mandamus & Othe □ 550 Civil Rights □ 555 Prison Condition □ 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	□ 46	IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration Actions	or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	 □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes 	
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in ✓ 1 Original □ 2 Rep		Remanded from	J 4 Rein	stated or 🗖 5 Transf	erred from 6 Multidist	rict	
	te Court	Appellate Court	Reop	pened Anothe (specify	er District Litigation Transfer		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	ON Brief description of ca	seq.	re filing (I	Oo not cite jurisdictional sta	tutes unless diversity):		
Fair Debt Collections Practices Act II. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.) D	DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes □ No				
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE				DOCKET NUMBER			
DATE 04/15/2017	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Lawrence Hersh						
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY							
RECEIPT # AN	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	MAG. JU	IDGE	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
 - (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
 - (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- **II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)

- **III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- **IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- **V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Debt Collectors Sued over 'Illegal' Charges and Litigation Threats</u>